

Focus Area 18: Mental Health and Mental Disorders

Objective 18-1 targets an overall reduction in the suicide death rate to 5.0 per 100,000 population.

California's age-adjusted death rates for suicide were 9.5 per 100,000 population in 2000, 9.7 in 2001, 9.3 in 2002, and 9.6 in 2003 (Figure 18-1, Table 18-1). California's suicide death rates are significantly higher than the HP2010 target of 5.0 per 100,000 population, and this objective has not yet been achieved.

California data by race and ethnicity show that the highest age-adjusted suicide death rates were found for Whites (12.8 per 100,000 in 2000, 13.5 in 2001, 13.0 in 2002, and 13.8 in 2003). These rates are more than 2.5 times greater than the HP2010 objective. The next highest suicide death rates were found for the "Multirace" population (5.7 per 100,000 in 2003), African Americans/Blacks (6.6 per 100,000 in 2000, 6.0 in 2001, 6.7 in 2002, and 5.6 in 2003), and Asians (5.8 per 100,000 in 2000, 5.6 in 2001, 5.8 in 2002, and 5.5 in 2003). The HP2010 objective is not being achieved for any of these racial groups as of 2003. This objective is, however, being achieved for Hispanics/Latinos (4.9 per 100,000 in 2000, 4.8 in 2001, 4.2 in 2001, and 4.7 in 2003). Death rates for the American Indian/Alaska Native and the Pacific Islander populations were unreliable due to the small number of events and are not reported here.

Age-adjusted suicide death rates for males (15.7 per 100,000 in 2000, 16.0 in 2001, 15.3 in 2002, and 15.7 in 2003) were three times higher than the HP2010 target, and significantly higher than those for females (4.1 per 100,000 in 2000, 4.0 in 2001 and 2002, and 4.1 in 2003). This HP2010 objective is being achieved for females, but not for males.

For more information on suicide in California, visit the Epidemiology for Prevention and Injury Control (EPIC) Web site at:

http://www.applications.dhs.ca.gov/epicdata/content/ST_suicide.htm

And the Suicide Prevention Advocacy Network (SPAN) site at:

<http://www.spancalifornia.org/>

For more information on Healthy People 2010 objective 18-1, please visit:

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/HTML/Volume2/18Mental.htm>

and

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/html/tracking/od18.htm>

**Figure 18-1
Suicide Death Rates
California, 2000-2003**

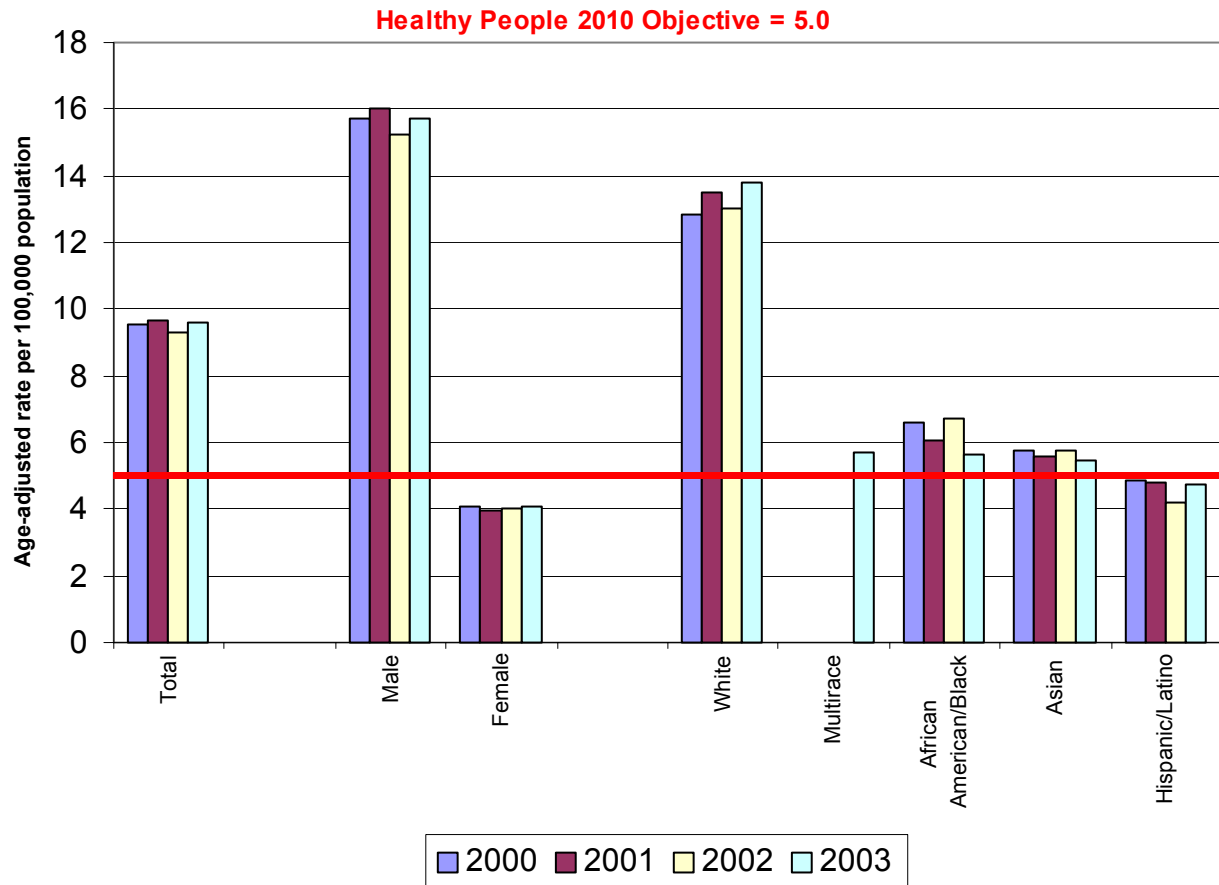


Table 18-1
Suicide Deaths and Death Rates
California, 2000-2003

	2000 N	Rate ¹	Lower 95% C.I.	Upper 95% C.I.	2001 N	Rate ¹	Lower 95% C.I.	Upper 95% C.I.
Healthy People 2010 Target		5.0				5.0		
CALIFORNIA TOTAL	3,112	9.5	9.2	9.9	3,254	9.7	9.4	10.0
Race-Ethnicity								
African American/Black	144	6.6	5.5	7.7	134	6.0	5.0	7.1
American Indian	12	DSU	-----	-----	12	DSU	-----	-----
Asian	210	5.8	5.0	6.6	216	5.6	4.8	6.3
Hispanic/Latino	449	4.9	4.3	5.4	489	4.8	4.3	5.3
Pacific Islander	9	DSU	-----	-----	8	DSU	-----	-----
White	2,270	12.8	12.3	13.4	2,385	13.5	13.0	14.0
Multirace	14	DSU	-----	-----	8	DSU	-----	-----
Gender								
Female	682	4.1	3.8	4.4	685	4.0	3.7	4.3
Male	2,430	15.7	15.1	16.4	2,569	16.0	15.4	16.7

	2002 N	Rate ¹	Lower 95% C.I.	Upper 95% C.I.	2003 N	Rate ¹	Lower 95% C.I.	Upper 95% C.I.
Healthy People 2010 Target		5.0				5.0		
CALIFORNIA TOTAL	3,209	9.3	9.0	9.6	3,395	9.6	9.3	10.0
Race-Ethnicity								
African American/Black	152	6.7	5.6	7.8	131	5.6	4.6	6.6
American Indian	17	DSU	-----	-----	16	DSU	-----	-----
Asian	231	5.8	5.0	6.5	220	5.5	4.7	6.2
Hispanic/Latino	442	4.2	3.8	4.6	509	4.7	4.3	5.2
Pacific Islander	9	DSU	-----	-----	18	DSU	-----	-----
White	2,334	13.0	12.5	13.6	2,464	13.8	13.3	14.4
Multirace	19	DSU	-----	-----	34	5.7	3.7	7.7
Gender								
Female	710	4.0	3.7	4.3	733	4.1	3.8	4.4
Male	2,499	15.3	14.7	15.9	2,662	15.7	15.1	16.3

SOURCES: CA Department of Health Services, Death Records, 2000-2003; CA Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity for California and Its Counties 2000-2050, May 2004.

NOTES: Suicide deaths defined by ICD-10 codes X60-X84, Y87.0.

¹ Rate per 100,000 population, age-adjusted using the 2000 US population standard; excludes death records with unknown ages.

DSU Data Statistically Unreliable due to small number of events.